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Great Lakes Border Health Initiative Laboratory Subcommittee

The Laboratory subcommittee is made up of laboratorians and other infectious disease specialists from several of the GLBHI states and the province of Ontario.

The committee meets once a month to discuss current infectious disease occurrences, as well as to discuss other pertinent issues related to the grant agreement.

The Laboratory subcommittee works closely with the PH Communications subcommittee to maintain the notifiable disease list and cross-check case definitions.

The subcommittee is also in the process of developing a regional exercise to test the turn-around time needed for applying for and receiving import-export permits from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Department of Commerce, respectively, as well as the packaging requirements and procedures involved in the transportation of infectious or hazardous substances across the border.

Besides meeting monthly via teleconference, the Laboratory subcommittee meets once yearly in person at the GLBHI annual conference.

The 2008-2009 Laboratory subcommittee is chaired by Stephanie Ostrowski of New York, Valerie Reed of Michigan, and Peter McEwan of Ontario.